Marine Products Exports

168. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what were the total marine products exports in the first nine months of the fiscal year 2004-05;

(b) the respective exports from Cochin and Visakhapatnam during this period;

(c) whether it is a fact that more exports are orignating at Visakhapatnam port;

(d) if so, what additional steps MPEDA propose to take to increase exports from Visakhapatnam; and

(e) the details of plan to expand the storage capacity for exports by MPEDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) As per the provisional export figures provided by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), the exports of our marine products during the period April-December, 2004 amounted to US$ 1088.24 million.

(b) The respective exports from Cochin and Visakhapatnam ports during this period were provisionally US$188.46 million and US$ 176.93 million respectively.

(c) For the exports of marine products, Chennai is the leading port.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) To expand the storage capacity for exports of marine products, MPEDA has been extending financial assistance for setting up large cold storage for storing fish and fish products.

Decline in India's export share

169. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's share in world exports which was 1.5 per cent at Independence, has as per latest records, come down to a mere 0.8 per cent;